

TO: MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER

FROM: MARK MALONEY, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

DATE: JULY 15, 2020

SUBJ: PUBLIC WORKS MONTHLY REPORT

SHOREVIEW ONCE AGAIN AWARDED STEPS 4 & 5 IN GREENSTEP CITIES PROGRAM!



**natural resources coordinator & EQC members at city's
new electric vehicle charging station outside of the
community center upper entrance**

The City of Shoreview was recognized this month by the GreenStep Cities program as a Step 4 and 5 city for work done in 2019. GreenStep Cities is a recognition and reporting program through the Great Plains Institute, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and the League of Minnesota Cities. Shoreview advanced to Step 4 for the first time in 2018 and to Step 5 for the first time in 2019. This year, the city was able to retain those titles. In order to maintain Step 4 & 5 status, the city needs to continue reporting on a variety of environmental metrics each year (Step 4), and show improvement in at least three of those metrics during the reporting process (Step 5).

This year, the city improved on more than the required three metrics. Some of the most notable sustainability improvements in city operations included: number of LED streetlights installed; number of trees planted; energy cost used to distribute utilities (water); percentage of housing within a mile of a bike trail/ transit route/park; renewable energy produced at city-owned facility, and municipal green square footage for the city's new solar arrays. The solar array on the roof of the public works maintenance center and the WaterSmart water conservation program both helped solidify many of the improvements Shoreview made last year.

Thinking ahead to next year, staff has been focusing on electric vehicle work to help conserve resources, benefit residents, and strengthen Shoreview's application for Step 5 in 2021. In the summer of 2020, four level-2 electric vehicle charging stations were installed in the city hall/community center parking lot. Signage and pavement markings are still in the works, but station use has been increasing since they became available. Staff is hopeful that online promotion by the Great Plains Institute and a story in the next ShoreViews will help increase awareness of the stations. Currently, charging is free for the first 2 hours and then increases to \$2 an hour after that. Enough electrical infrastructure was placed at this location to install more stations in the future if demand for use increases. The city is also working with Xcel Energy on a fleet electrification program. Telemetrics meters are currently installed in 12

city vehicles gathering data on their daily usage and park times in order to determine if each vehicle is suitable to be replaced with an electric alternative in the future. Data will be gathered for at least three months and then an assessment will be run to produce results and recommendations. Shoreview's participation in the program is being covered free of charge by funds provided to Xcel Energy by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

Between the new electric vehicle work and the city's standard sustainable approach to projects and daily activities, staff is confident that Shoreview can continue to achieve Steps 4 & 5 for many years going forward.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Environmental Quality Committee (EQC)

The EQC held their June meeting virtually last month. It was their first meeting since the pandemic started in March. The group was able to get together using GoogleMeet and hold the meeting as they normally would have in person. All but one member was able to attend. At the meeting, the focus of discussion was on this year's Green Community Awards. Two applications had been received by the time of the meeting, with the application deadline being July 10th. Tim set up site visits with the two applicants and staff and some members attended those in early July. Both of the applicants for this year's awards are winning for water quality work. They had each installed multiple rain and pollinator gardens on their property to help with water infiltration and to reduce the amount of turf grass. The two current applicants are excellent candidates for Green Community Awards and the EQC is hopeful that more will apply before the deadline. The EQC July meeting will either be virtual or in-person but outside and will be held on Monday, July 27 at 6:30pm.

Forestry

Last year staff decided to purchase a new system for ash tree injections to help the emerald ash borer program run smoother. This new system includes equipment and chemical that are different from what was previously used. Though functioning the same way (through basal injections into the tree), and with the same active ingredient (emamectin benzoate), the new system eliminates several factors that previously slowed down treatments and cost the city money. For example, the older ArborJet equipment required plastic plugs to be inserted into the tree at each injection port (multiple per tree). These plugs were then left in the tree and trees with multiple years of treatment ended up with quite a bit of plastic to grow over. The new equipment, q-connect by Rainbow Treecare, does not require these plugs. Chemical for the new equipment also does not require dilution and it travels through the tree much faster than TreeAge, the old chemical. Previous equipment had been used since the program started in 2011 and was nearly 10 years old.

So far the new equipment is proving to be well worth the investment. The forestry interns have almost completed all properties that paid for treatment this year, with approximately 300 trees already treated. That is a

much faster rate than the past few years. Last year, the city had to turn away some residents interested in treatment because the city was at capacity for the program. It was because of that that staff decided to purchase the new system and the results are very encouraging. Because of the extra time the forestry interns will likely have at the end of the summer, the city is planning to spruce up some of our rain gardens with new plantings.

Water

The city continues to receive applications for and take calls about the smart irrigation controller rebate program. The rebate is paid for mostly through grant dollars. The grant was awarded to the city by the Metropolitan Council and runs through this year. The city has awarded 30 rebates so far for a total of about \$3,000 worth of cost savings to residents, and additional water savings for Shoreview! In order to try and maximize savings for everyone, the city has installed a splash page on WaterSmart that residents will see when logging in to their portal accounts. This, in addition to the city's continual outreach, will hopefully help boost application numbers.

Recycling

The city still plans to host a 2020 fall cleanup day event. It is possible that the event may be cancelled due to COVID-19, so the city is implementing caveats and precautions into event outreach. After discussing the issue with other cities currently contemplating holding drop-off events, staff decided to require masks for all participants (even inside their vehicles), to message that residents should stay home if they're feeling sick, and to make sure all residents stay inside of their vehicles during drop off. PPE will be provided to all workers of the event including city staff, Eureka staff, and sub-contractor staff. The details are still being worked out, specifically around contact with vehicle tickets and cash, and city and Eureka staff continue to watch state recommendations for large events to determine if cancellation is necessary. Contact tracing is also being discussed, were the event to take place. Fall cleanup day is scheduled for Saturday, October 10th at McCullough Park along County Road I. The event will be restricted to Shoreview residents only.

MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

The DOC crew has returned on a very limited basis. They continue to isolate themselves from the facility by receiving their assignments outside of the maintenance facility and take their breaks in the field. Maintenance crews continue to rotate cleaning, maintaining and sanitizing the maintenance facility on a regular schedule.

The street division work program for the last month consisted of:

- Seasonal trail maintenance ramps up throughout the summer months.
 - Mowing maintenance strips along trails throughout the growing season.

- o Crews have been patching, crack filling, and edging along trails in preparation for the trail seal coating process.
 - o Repairs along boardwalks are necessary to ensure a safe, smooth surface.
- Storm sewer inspection and maintenance continues.
 - o Crews worked with the DOC crew stabilizing shoreline of a pond in southern Shoreview.
 - o They continue to run the emergency pump at Suzanne pond as necessary.
 - o All storm sewer lift stations are inspected 7 days a week.
- Street crews are patching streets as needed.
- They open catch basins and clean up downed trees and limbs from frequent summer storms.
 - o Crews also removed a few damaged trees as a result of recent storms.
- Street sweepers are out sweeping streets as weather conditions and time permits.
- Sign maintenance is ongoing
 - o Pavement markings including cross walks and turn arrows are being painted on the streets as the weather allows.
 - o Crews continue putting the new logos on vehicles and street name signs.
- Five street lights were reported as not functioning properly.
 - o Three were Xcel energy lights
 - o Street crews repaired one
 - o Signature lighting was called in to repair the other one.

The utility division work program for the last month included:

- Each day utility personnel inspect all the wells, lift stations, water towers, the booster station and the water treatment plant.
 - o Regular/routine maintenance is performed and any necessary repairs are completed as scheduled.
 - o Throughout the growing season, crews regularly mow and weed whip around all wells, lift stations and towers.
- Utility crews continue to respond to location requests by marking underground City utilities in proposed excavation areas.
 - o As owners of buried infrastructure, the City is required by law to locate these facilities within a certain time period of a Gopher State One-Call request.
 - o Project demands continue to increase and require a number of utility crew personnel to meet the demand for utility locates. This has the effect of redirecting a significant amount of resources away from other elements of the Department's work program.
- Drinking water samples are collected and analyzed as required by the Minnesota Department of Health.
 - o Crews are also regularly collecting samples and bringing them in for testing at project sites throughout the City.

- All of the City's approximately 10,000 water meters are read every month.
 - It takes one person approximately one week to drive the streets to collect all the water meter reads through radio transmission. That data is use for water billing statement as well as the WaterSmart customer portal.
- Utility crews continue with the annual cleaning/jetting of approximately ½ of the city's sanitary sewer system.
- Crews are also regularly televising segments of the sanitary sewer system.
- They have been inspecting and repairing curb boxes (water shut offs) as needed.
- They continue with annual routine maintenance and exercising of the gate valves.
 - They have been repairing valves as they come across ones in need of attention.
- Utility crews closely monitor street construction projects and spend time working with the contractors on turning water segments off and on, loading mains and collecting samples.

The Department of Corrections crews have been back for a couple days a week. They are working with the parks department in the parks. They have also worked with the street department on pond projects and cleaning up medians on Snail Lake Road and Mackubin St.

PROJECT UPDATES

Wabasso Neighborhood Reconstruction - Project 19-01 - The contractor is working on the final restoration of the disturbed areas and addressing punch list items. All work for the project is expected to be complete by mid-August. It is expected a request for final payment will be submitted to the council for consideration in September.

County Road E Trail and Water Main Extension - Projects 19-03 & 19-05 - All of the work is complete and a request for final payment will be submitted to the council for consideration in August.

Schutta Road Sewer Improvements - Project 19-06 - All work for the project is complete and it is expected a request for final payment will be submitted to the council for consideration in August.

North Owasso Blvd Reconstruction - Project 19-07 - The underground piping, concrete curb and gutter, and first layer of pavement was installed on North Owasso Boulevard from Victoria Street to just west of Chandler Road and the contractor is currently restoring the area behind the curb, including driveway replacements. It is expected the pavement for the trail between Victoria Street and Chandler Road will be installed by the end of July. The contractor is currently completing the underground piping work between Chandler Road and Soo Street. Once the utility work is complete, the contractor will start preparing the road base and also start work on the stormwater treatment area between the parks.

2019 Street Light Replacement - Project 19-08 - All of the work is complete, the new lights are installed and operational, and the contractor is working on punch list items. It is expected a request for final payment will be submitted to the council for consideration in August.

Suzanne/Gramsie Stormwater Improvements - Project 20-01 - The contractor moved on site and started the installation of the underground piping. The section of Gramsie Road, adjacent to the project area, was closed to traffic the week of July 6 and is expected to stay closed until the end of July to allow for the installation of underground piping and raising of the roadway.

Edgetown Acres Reconstruction - Project 20-02 - The underground piping work is complete on Oakwood Drive and Fairview Avenue north of Oakwood Drive and the contractor is currently completing the underground piping work on Fairview Avenue south of Oakwood Drive. Once the underground work is complete, the contractor will start preparing the road base and also start the underground piping work on Terrace and Pinewood Drives.

Turtle Lake Road Rehabilitation - Project 20-04 - All of the work is complete and it is expected a request for final payment will be presented to the council for consideration in August.

More detailed information on the projects, including maps of the project areas and weekly updates are available on the city's project webpage:

<https://www.shoreviewmn.gov/services/street-projects>

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 20, 2020

t:/monthly/July 2020 Monthly Report